WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today on the passing of former state senator J. Frank Raley:

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of J. Frank Raley, a dear friend and a passionate public servant. He was a tireless advocate for our state and was dedicated to improving the quality of life in Southern Maryland, helping to transform this region into one of the most prosperous in the nation.

"While serving in public office and for many decades afterward, he dedicated himself to strategic investments in education, infrastructure, economic development, and other critical areas that helped make our region successful. He also played an instrumental role in establishing St. Mary's College of Maryland as a four-year public liberal arts school and has been one the College's chief supporters. J. Frank Raley made a real difference in the lives of Southern Maryland residents, and all of us who had the honor of working with him will miss him dearly. I join in celebrating his life and significant contributions to our state, and I offer my condolences to his family."